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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER.
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The Moral Responsibility

A man who has been before, possibly as a result of drink, dangerously near to a horrible child murder, is found, after a beastly debauch, to have cruelly killed and wantonly cut to pieces a boy less than four years of age. There was no drunken frenzy, no epileptic seizure in which consciousness and self control were lost. There was either, as the man himself claims, simply a peculiar impulse which he followed not knowing why, or there was an unnatural criminal instinct of another sort, or there was a motive of revenge upon the mother of the child. The perpetrator of the deed remembers every detail and relates it to police officers. His narrative shows that no small incident of the frightful tragedy has passed out of his memory. The narrative, in fact, shows that he was so fully aware of his actions and their possible consequences, that his most revolting acts were induced by evidently almost a frenzied haste in efforts at concealment. Finally, he is an habitual drunkard of long standing. Query, is he a murderer, whom society should get rid of, or is he an unfortunate victim of disease for whom society should care? This is a problem which is about to be turned over to a jury here. The jury will be free from the passions which stir the ordinary man on reading the story of such an occurrence,—it will be composed of specially selected men, ready to hear the law as well as the evidence and decide in harmony with both. As the matter is viewed by the jury, it is a mere question of the slayer's responsibility at the time of the actual killing. This must control the jury verdict. But it does not control the larger verdict of the public and does not affect the standing of the murdered in the final judgment that is free from human errors. In that larger view, the question at issue is whether habitual drunkards have a license to murder, and whether the crime of crimes was not committed by this man when,—as it happens in this case despite the warning of a previous murderous impulse,—he trod the pathway that led to murder. Constantly cases are encountered in which human law fails quite evidently to do justice. Almost any possible result of the trial referred to will be such a failure. There is no way of doing justice in such a case. The feeling that this is so is what produces lynch law in less cool headed communities than Honolulu. Not that lynching is at all a plan likely to improve justice, but it satisfies the majority of such communities better than the complicated legal efforts to straighten out the impossible tangle.

A Common Sense Rule

Representative W. W. Harris seems to have put the matter very tersely and very justly at the meeting of the Central Committee Saturday night in supporting the rule that requires members of the Central Committee to support the nominees of the party, or get off the committee. It is strange either that there should be need of such a rule or opposition to it. It is needed because of the strange obtuseness of thought and sentiment that prevails here, which in the past has permitted men, without seemingly any sense of impropriety, to be members of the Central Committee of one party, while accepting nominations from another. It is the same obtuseness which has made it possible for the same men to take active and leading part in the councils of all the separate political parties, and most of the factions of each, within the space of a few months.

Nowhere else within the realm of American politics would such a rule be necessary, because anywhere else, the moment a man gets out of political harmony with his party's organization, he gets out of the organization. It would be unheard of anywhere else than here that a man should remain a member of a Central Committee and still seek to defeat any or all of the party's regularly nominated candidates. As there would be no need of the rule anywhere else, so there would probably be no opposition to it, if proposed. Because the purpose of the rule is so thoroughly in accord with the general views held regarding political decency, that it seems almost a matter of course, if there is to be any legislation on the subject at all.

Our government is a government by parties. It is the duty of every man who desires good government to ally himself with the party which in his estimation is most likely to bring about good government. Through this party, primarily, he should seek to secure his ideal of government. If his party makes bad or unworthy nominations, it may become his duty, it is very likely to become his duty, to join with others in an attempt to defeat all such bad or unworthy nominees. But in doing it he ought to relieve himself of all conflicting duties. No man can honestly be on more than one side at a time. If a man has been put on a Central Committee it is for the purpose of carrying on the work of the party and of securing the election of its candidates. He cannot honestly and consistently do this, and oppose the election of some of them. If he feels it his duty to oppose one, some, or all of his party's nominees, let him free himself from all obligation to support them, by resigning from the Central Committee, and then he will be in a position to make a straightforward and manly opposition to those candidates which ought to be opposed. Certainly no honest man can object to this sort of a proceeding. The honest men will not object to it. Whatever may have been the motives of those who brought the rule forward, its effect will be, not to hinder or prevent honest revolt at unworthy nominations. But it will compel those who would stab good nominees in the back, either to declare themselves or to hold their hands.

Honesty, and civic backbone, the voter of independent convictions, who is after all best defense against corrupt party politics, and the best assurance of good nominations are always ready to do the square thing and fight in the open. They can't lose by a rule which shuts out the bushwhackers.

Appropriations And Expositions

Kahn has asked Congress for \$5,000,000 as a starter. As San Francisco let the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Mission Dolores pass without springing the exposition idea, and as there is nothing else in her history that could be made to furnish an anniversary sufficiently important to base a request for a few millions from the federal treasury on, she has seized on the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Pacific Ocean. This is an anniversary that a great many other places might claim by title as valid as San Francisco's. We ourselves have as much claim to it as anybody. But as it is one of these anniversaries to which nobody had an exclusive claim, and many might make equal claim, it probably

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goes to the one that claims it first. San Francisco has claimed it first, and values her priority rights at \$5,000,000. All of which goes to prove that it is the one who thinks of things first, that is really great.

We will probably have to postpone our exposition raid on the federal treasury until 1913, the centennial anniversary of the arrival here of the missionaries. We ought to be able to work that up into complete justification for a big federal appropriation, and incidentally for an Exposition.

When that Hawaii grand jury reads Hi Henry's complete exoneration of his subordinate, won't it be ashamed of itself?

What's this! The French bankers have declined the new Russian loan! Things are getting serious in Russia.

The cable dispatches say that Christmas in Russia was peaceful, having passed off with the usual celebrations. The date of this cable indicates that the Christmas was observed according to the Russian calendar twelve days after our Christmas. It is only a little while ago, however, that the cable announced that Russia had reformed her calendar to conform to the Gregorian. Perhaps like a good many other reforms in Russia, it hasn't gone into effect yet.

The cheerful yankee knowing that the laws favors the diligent creditor, has already filed his claims for damages by reason of the insurrectionary riots in St. Petersburg.

Whether we get any Molokans or not a number of people will get nice trips out of the thing.

FROM OTHER SANCTUARY.

We have noticed that the man who

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has to work hard from early till late soon has the artistic temperament in him smashed as flat as if a rock crusher had rolled over it.

Even the mark-down of fifty per cent on life insurance salaries leaves them still a pinch.

We have the ferocious eagerness of American colleges to win, the tedious artificial processes of warming up college "patriotism," the scouring of the preparatory schools and the rest of the country for recruits, the yielding to professionalism, the salience of essential "mucklerism" in foot ball. We hate that peculiar American college way of taking exercise which consists in taking it by proxy, in "supporting" the eleven or the nine by watching and yelling for it. A few hunking athletes, some of them of mature age, varied experience and crooked "record"; a crowd of pimply-faced, undeveloped, unathletic boys "rooting" for them—that is "college athletics." The notion that college is the place to study in is too ancient to be resurrected in this enlightened age. Still, though boys are not to be scholars, might they not be gentlemen in their sports?

If you have a dimple in your cheek you will find the word "equilibrium" will show it off. At least an Atchison woman with a dimple finds a good deal of use for the word.

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